

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING JANUARY 11, 2016 7:00 P.M.

The meeting was opened by announcing that this was an open meeting of the Common Council. Notice of this meeting was given to the public at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting by forwarding the complete agenda to the official City newspaper, The New Richmond News, and to all news media who have requested the same as well as posting. Copies of the complete agenda were available for inspection at the City Clerk's office. Anyone desiring information as to forthcoming meetings should contact the City Clerk's office.

Roll call was taken.

Members Present: Mayor Horne, Alderman Kittel, Ard, Hansen, Volkert, Zajkowski, and Student Representatives Victoria Johnson and Jesse Stenske

Members Absent: Alderman Jackson

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Alderman Zajkowski moved to adopt the agenda as presented, seconded by Alderman Kittel and carried.

Public Comment

There was none.

Consent Agenda

1. Approval of the Minutes from the Previous Regular Council Meeting, December 14, 2015, Special Council Meetings, December 7, 2015 at 6:00 and 7:00 p.m., and December 14, 2015 at 6:00 p.m.
2. Application for Parade Permit from Mari Driscoll for the St. Patrick's Day Parade on March 17, 2016
3. Application for License to Serve from Holly R. Lindsley, New Richmond
4. Payment of VO#58815 through VO#58933 totaling \$682,571.15 plus electronic fund transfers of \$2,249,741.64 for a grand total of \$3,195,278.84

General Fund	\$ 2,239,470.54
Impact Fees Fund	53,000.00
CDBG – Housing	160.00
Debt Service Fund	246,021.97
Capital Projects	57,740.53
Capital Replacement Fund	57,311.50
Landfill Cleanup Fund	11,166.10
TIF District #6	208,149.16
TIF District #8	24,934.66
Storm Water Utility	12,125.76
Park Land Trust Fund	2,537.95
Library Trust Fund	12,000.00
Tax Agency Fund	7,694.62
Unposted Payrolls	262,966.05

Alderman Hansen moved to approve the consent agenda, seconded by Alderman Ard and carried.

Department Reports

Administration- Mike Darrow stated that he and City staff met with St. Croix County regarding property along County Road A that is owned by the County in Willow River Bluffs. All existing plans guide this area for residential development. There is almost \$1 million in infrastructure in that area. City staff would like to keep at least part of this area residential. There will be a public meeting on January 21, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. at the County Government Center in Hudson. A graduate student from Colorado has contacted Mike and would like to do a sustainability project for the City of New Richmond. Mike will present more information on this to the Council in February. Mike is also meeting with each of the Council members to discuss 2016 goals and will discuss these goals with the full Council at the work session in February or March.

Public Works – Jeremiah Wendt thanked the Street Department for their work on plowing and gave residents a reminder about sidewalk snow removal; residents are required to remove snow within 24 hours of every snowfall. On January 14, 2016, there will be an open house regarding North Starr Avenue, East Hughes, East River Drive, West River Drive, Fairfield and Summit Road.

Community Development – Beth Thompson presented building permit information for 2014 and 2015. Things are looking good for 2016 as well.

Library - Kim Hennings stated that the Library will be receiving a grant from Bosch for \$7,100 for lego math programs. The Library now has learning tablets available for kids to check out one week at a time. A winter reading program started for adults. On Thursday at 1:00 p.m. there will be an Amish speaker at the Library.

Police – Lieutenant Craig Yehlik stated that the Police and Fire Commission recently appointed him to the Lieutenant position. They are in the promotion process for the sergeant position. Todd Schaffer has temporarily begun work as an investigator. Katarina Radke has accepted the offer of employment for police officer and will be starting on February 1, 2016. Craig will be presenting the active shooter training at the Centre for their members. He recently found out about a program offering two canines free of charge to Police Departments. More information will be coming regarding this program.

Fire - Mayor Horne asked residents to adopt a fire hydrant and clear the snow from it. As we get more snow it is more important to keep them cleared since every second counts when there is a fire.

Community Garden/Farm to Table Update

Mike Darrow explained that the City of New Richmond acquired 20 acres through airport litigation in 2015 and this land must be used as farmland or passive space. The City is partnering with the school to explore the creation of a national model for a farm to table program. Rachel Sauvola, Ag teacher at the New Richmond High School, along with students Max Emerson and Sophia Thommes, gave a presentation about their five year vision for this property which includes raising animals including beef, pigs, chickens, constructing buildings to house some of the animals, gardening and more. This project is in the brainstorming phase.

Housing Study Presentation

Brendan Weise, a graduate student from UWRF, gave a presentation on part two of the housing study that he and Bryan Heth recently completed. Beth Thompson thanked Brenden Weise and Bryan Heth for their work on this project. Also, Danielle Campeau, Leanne Van Allen and Dr. Logan Kelly were thanked for bringing this program to New Richmond. The study will be used to help update our comprehensive plan and in other planning activities. The final report will be available in February.

Resolution #011601 – Designation of Depository

Alderman Ard offered the following resolution and moved for its adoption:

RESOLUTION#011601
RESOLUTION DESIGNATING PUBLIC DEPOSITORY FOR MISCELLANEOUS
ACCOUNTS AND AUTHORIZING WITHDRAWAL OF CITY MONEYS

(a complete copy is on file in the Clerk's office)

Motion was seconded by Alderman Kittel and carried.

Resolution #011602 – Designation of Depository #2

Alderman Hansen offered the following resolution and moved for its adoption:

RESOLUTION #011602

RESOLUTION DESIGNATING DEPOSITORY AND AUTHORIZING WITHDRAWAL OF
COUNTY, CITY, VILLAGE, TOWN OR SCHOOL DISTRICT MONEYS

(a complete copy is on file in the Clerk's office)

Motion was seconded by Alderman Zajkowski and carried.

WPPI Energy Contract Extension

Jeremiah Wendt, Public Works Director, explained that WPPI is asking the City of New Richmond to extend their contract to 2055 and the deadline for this is March 31, 2016. Mike Peters, CEO of WPPI Energy, was at the October 12, 2015 Council meeting explaining the need for this extension. Nick Vivian, City Attorney, has reviewed the contract and approved it. Council action is not needed at this time. However, this issue will be brought back to the Council in February or March.

Farm Lease Amendment

Noah Wiedenfeld explained that the amendment to this farm lease is due to the sale of land for the construction of the Goodwill store and the stormwater pond directly to the north. Alderman Ard moved to approve the amendment, seconded by Alderman Hansen and carried.

North Shore Drive Design

Jeremiah Wendt explained that he held an open house on December 10, 2015 for residents on North Shore Drive. Several options were presented to the residents for cross-sections of the future road. Construction plans include minimal water and sewer work, roadway construction and multi-use trail connection. The multi-use trail will be mostly constructed on wetland property, to minimize the number of driveways involved.

Staff recommends authorization to proceed with the design based on the parameters outlined in the discussion. The hybrid section addresses concerns raised by the public to date, while providing a cost-effective and environmentally conscious solution. Approve to proceed with the design at this time will allow the project to remain on schedule for 2016 construction. Alderman Ard moved to proceed as recommended by staff, seconded by Alderman Zajkowski and carried.

Community Commons Update

Kim Hennings, Library Director, explained that the School District is working on a plan to raze the commons building in 2016.

No Council Work Session in January

Communications and Miscellaneous

None

Closed Session

Alderman Ard moved to go into Closed Session per State Statute 19.85 (1)(c)(e)(g) to discuss Litigation Updates, TIF #6, TIF #9, and Employee Review, seconded by Alderman Hansen and carried.

Open Session

No action taken

Alderman Hansen moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Alderman Volkert and carried.

Meeting adjourned at 10:41 p.m.

Tanya Reigel
City Clerk